

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 CU-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 200605Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1680

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: END OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

REF: A) SEOUL 8055; B) SEOUL 8348

SUMMARY: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED DECEMBER 18 FOLLOWING A WRAP UP TWO-DAY PLENARY SESSION. A SPECIAL SESSION IS LIKELY TO BE CALLED IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH, WITH MANY PARLIAMENTARIANS PLANNING FOREIGN TOURS AND VISITS TO CONSTITUENCIES DURING INTERIM. OPPOSITION, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GOVERNMENT VULNERABILITY IN WAKE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, FINISHED SESSION WITH SOME

SMALL GAINS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ASSEMBLY, WHICH HAD BEEN MEETING IN COMMITTEE FOLLOWING DECEMBER 2 PASSAGE OF BUDGET, HELD FINAL PLENARY SESSION DECEMBER 17-18 TO PASS 18 REMAINING GOVERNMENT BILLS. MAIN EMPHASIS LAST WEEK IN COMMITTEE WAS ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAUSED BY FUEL SHORTAGE. NDP SPOKESMAN HAS CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TO COPE WITH ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND EXPECTATION IS THAT SPECIAL  
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ASSEMBLY SESSION WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH.

2. NORMAL PARLIAMENTARY EXODUS FROM SEOUL HAS BEGUN WITH ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON DEPARTING DECEMBER 19 FOR INDIA AND FOUR MAN BIPARTISAN DELEGATION LEAVING DECEMBER 18 FOR THE PHILIPPINES. NDP PRESIDENT YU CHIN-SAN LEFT FOR TAIWAN PREVIOUS WEEK.

3. THE 90 DAY SESSION, WHICH BEGAN WITH COMPLETE GOVERNMENT DOMINANCE OF PROCEEDINGS, SAW THE OPPOSITION TAKE SOME LIMITED ADVANTAGE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT AND SUBSEQUENT STUDENT, CHRISTIAN, AND PRESS DISSENT. NDP USED ASSEMBLY AS FORUM TO TRY TO IMPROVE OPPOSITIONIST IMAGE BY CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT AND USED THREAT OF BOYCOTT TO GAIN SOME MEASURE OF GOVERNMENT COMPROMISE ON JOINT REFORM RESOLUTION, AND NDP SPONSORED LEGISLATION (REF A). HOWEVER, NDP MAINSTREAM HEADED BY YU CHIN-SAN WAS REACTING TO POLITICAL SITUATION, NOT LEADING EVENTS. NDP HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF OTHER GROUPS IN EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES, AND, IN THE END A YU CHIN-SAN WORKED OSU COMPROMISE WITH PRIMIN WHICH BROUGHT HIS LEADERSHIP UNDER HEAVY FIRE BY NON-MAINSTREAM FACTIONS IN NDP. THOSE

ATTACKS FORCED YU INTO A MORE ACTIVIST STANNG (REF B).

4. ON BALANCE WE DO BELIEVE OPPOSITION PRESSURE WAS ONE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR, ALTHOUGH A RELATIVELY MINOR ONE, TO THE PRESENT MODERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. THE GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, ALLOWED LIMITED CONCESSIONS TO OPPOSITION, THUS CREATING AT LEAST THE SEMBLANCE OF A FUNCTIONING PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION. UNDERHILL

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